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sented were mentioned. The two most notable papers were those on the synthesis of albumen, by Lilienfeld, and on fermentation without cells, by Buchner. The entertainments afforded to visiting members were also described. A full report will soon be published in the *Journal of the American Chemical Society*.

The second paper of the evening was read by Dr. H. C. Bolton, and was entitled 'Chemical Bibliography.' The author described, in an interesting manner, the methods pursued by him in the collection of bibliographic references and related some of his experiences in Europe.

Mr. Tassin called the attention of the Society to a new solution for determining high specific gravities, which consists of a solution of acetylene tetra-bromide in benzol or toluol. It has the advantage of being stable, cheap and easily made, has a high refractive index and does not decompose with metallic oxides or metals.

WILLIAM H. KRUG,  
*Secretary.*

HARVARD UNIVERSITY: STUDENTS' GEOLOGICAL CLUB, OCTOBER 25, 1898.

MR. J. M. BOUTWELL gave a paper on 'Nipissing Pass, An Ancient Outlet of the Great Lakes.' After briefly reviewing the post-glacial history of the great lakes, he described the results of a day's study of the region between Trout Lake and Nipissing Lake. Along the southern slope of the heights to the north, and overlooking the low, swampy divide between these lakes, are well developed and only slightly dissected bars, spits, terraces, and boulder-strewn beaches. These correlate with similar features, observed by Taylor, Gilbert, Spencer and others, about the upper Great Lakes, and mark the position, character, and recency of one of their post-glacial outlets.

*Geological Conference, November 1, 1898.* In a communication entitled 'Minerals of the Ural Mountains,' Dr. Charles Palache described the localities, occurrences, and important features of the ores, gems and rare minerals of that region. Native gold occurs in paying quantities in quartz veins which traverse the granite, syenite, metamorphic rocks and sediments older than Devonian, and also in placers, which are mainly in streams that drain

eastward. Platinum is found locally in association with serpentine and chrome-iron. Chalcopyrite occurs in limited areas with an altered surface zone of malacite. Along the axis of the mountains are valuable deposits of magnetite that are associated with porphyry dikes. Siderite, with its alteration products, and manganese oxide are found as beds in the Devonian. Beryl, topaz and tourmaline occur only in pegmatites, which cut the granite, gneiss, and metamorphic rocks of the central Urals. Both are found in large, perfect crystals of the blue variety, and are used as gems. In addition to the valuable specimens of epidote, garnet, vesuvianite, perofskite, ilmenite and massive rhodenite, which occur at the contact of basic eruptives with Paleozoic limestone, this region affords several minerals that are unknown elsewhere.

Mr. J. B. Woodworth described a recent visit to 'The Glaciers of Chamonix, France.' Two phenomena, found repeatedly, were a 'shingling' arrangement of boulders in the lower, lateral moraines, due to a shoving method of deposition by the ice; and a manifest overthrusting of the upper layers of the ice, in the manner observed by Chamberlin in certain Greenland glaciers. At a point in the Glacier d'Argentière a sharp, overthrust fault showed characteristic, drag features. Current photographs fail to do justice to the height of the Alpine moraines.

J. M. BOUTWELL,  
*Recording Secretary.*

#### NEW BOOKS.

*Elementary Text-book of Botany.* SYDNEY H. VINES. London, Swan, Sonnenschein & Co., Ltd.; New York, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xv+611. \$2.25.

*The Metric System of Weights and Measures Used by the Hartford Steam Boiler-Inspection Company, Hartford, Conn.* 1898. Pp. 196. \$1.25.

*Leçons de chimie physique.* J. H. VAN'T HOFF. Translated from the German by M. CORVISY. Paris, A. Hermann. 1898. Pp. 263. 10 fr.

*The Living Organism, an Introduction to the Problems of Biology.* ALFRED EARL. New York and London, The Macmillan Company. 1898. Pp. xiii+271. \$1.75.